## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

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## Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising

at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 to 40% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 10 to 40% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 45 to 70% by mass,

the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and

a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass,

wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3,

a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N\text{-}I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and

a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:

$$(IA) \qquad R^1 \longrightarrow Z^1 \stackrel{F}{\longleftrightarrow} F$$

(IB) 
$$R^3 \longrightarrow Z^2 \longrightarrow OR^4$$

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(IIA) 
$$R^5 \longrightarrow Z^3 \longrightarrow Z^4 \longrightarrow F$$
  $F$   $OR^6$ 

(IIC) 
$$R^9 \longrightarrow Z^7 + A Z^8 + B OR^{10}$$

(IIB) 
$$R^7 - Z^5 - Z^6 - Z^6 - Z^6$$

(IID) 
$$R^{11} - Z^9 - R^{12}$$

(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
— $B$ — $Z^{10}$ — $C$ — $Z^{11}$ — $D$ — $R^{14}$ 

$$(I A I) \qquad R^{1} \longrightarrow \begin{matrix} F & F \\ & & \\ & & \end{matrix} R^{1}$$

$$(IA-3) \qquad R^1 \longrightarrow F \qquad F \qquad F$$

$$(IB-1) \qquad R^3 \longrightarrow F \qquad F \qquad F \qquad R^{15} \qquad (IB-3) \qquad R$$

$$R^3$$
  $F$   $F$   $F$   $R^{15}$ 

(IIA-1) 
$$R^5$$
  $F$   $F$   $F$   $R^{15}$ 

(IIA-5) 
$$R^5 \longrightarrow F F F F R^{15}$$
 (IIB-1)

$$R^7$$
  $R^{15}$ 

(IIB-3) 
$$\mathbb{R}^7$$
  $\longrightarrow$   $\mathbb{R}^{15}$  (IIB-5)

$$R^7$$
  $\longrightarrow$   $F$   $F$   $F$   $R^{15}$ 

$$R^9$$
  $\longrightarrow$   $R^{15}$ 

(IIC-9) 
$$R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$$
 (IIC-10)  $R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$ 

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, or said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C=C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CF<sub>2</sub>O-, -COO-, or -OCO-;

 $Z^7$  and  $Z^8$  each independently represents a single bond, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CH-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH-, -C=C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-, or -OCH<sub>2</sub>-; 1 and m represents 0 or 1;

A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and

B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group, and

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wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^3$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O, -CO or -COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and  $R^{15}$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 25 to 60% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 35 to 65% by mass, the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 35 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T<sub>N-I</sub>) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa · s or less:

(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
  $B$   $Z^{10}$   $C$   $Z^{11}$   $D$   $R^{14}$ 

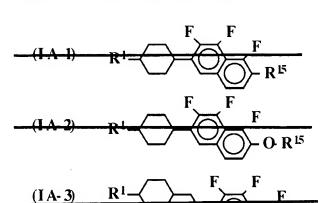
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups,

which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

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 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -, -CH=CH-,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2$ -,



$$(IA-4) \qquad R^1 \longrightarrow \qquad F \qquad F \qquad F \qquad \qquad F \qquad$$

wherein R<sup>1</sup>-and R<sup>3</sup>-represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub>-groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with O, CO or COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound

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selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 10 20 to 70% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 20 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 30 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 70 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T<sub>N-1</sub>) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa · s or less:

(III) 
$$R^{13}$$
  $B$   $Z^{10}$   $C$   $Z^{11}$   $D$   $R^{14}$ 

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(IIC-9) 
$$R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$$
 (IIC-10)  $R^9 \longrightarrow R^{15}$ 

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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, or said-alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

 $Z^1$  to  $Z^6$  and  $Z^9$  to  $Z^{11}$  each independently represents a single bond,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -, -CH=CH-,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2CH_2$ -,  $-CH_2$ -

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with O, CO or COO, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

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wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1 propenyl group, or a 3 butenyl group, and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said

alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-, or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

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Claim 7 (**Currently Amended**): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

(IID-1) 
$$R^{11}$$
  $OR^{15}$ 
(IID-2)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$ 
(IID-3)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$ 

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1- propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

wherein R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl

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group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3 butenyl group.

## Claim 9-11: (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -6,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature ( $T_{N-I}$ ) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and the viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device for active matrix display, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display device for VA mode, IPS mode or ECB mode, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, -1 propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

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wherein R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy

group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1 propenyl group, or a 3 butenyl group, and

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R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO-,

or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

(IID-1) 
$$R^{11}$$
  $OR^{15}$ 
(IID-2)  $R^{11}$   $F$   $F$   $OR^{15}$ 
(IID-3)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$ 

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO- or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1- propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

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(III-1)	$R^{13}$ — $\longrightarrow$ $R^{14}$
(III-2)	$R^{13}$ —COO $\bigcirc$ - $R^{14}$
(III-3)	$R^{13}$ — $R^{14}$
(III-4)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
	- RA
(III-5)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$ $R^{14}$
(III-6)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-7)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-8)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-9)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-10)	$R^{13} - \bigcirc - C \equiv C - \bigcirc - R^{14}$
(III-11)	$R^{13}$ — $\longrightarrow$ $R^{14}$
(III-12)	$R^{13}$ —COO $\bigcirc$ - $R^{14}$
(III-13)	$R^{13}$ $\bigcirc$
(III-14)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(TTT 15)	$\mathbb{R}^{13}$
(III-15)	R <sup>14</sup>
(III-16)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-17)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-18)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-19)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-20)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
	<b>K</b>
(III-21)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-22)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
	\ / \ \ \ / \ \ \ \ / \ \ \ \ \ / \

wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

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group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3 butenyl group.

Claim 22 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):

wherein R<sup>9</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with –O-, -CO-, or –COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 23 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the

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(IID-1) 
$$R^{11}$$
  $OR^{15}$  (IID-2)  $R^{11}$   $OR^{15}$   $OR^{15}$   $OR^{15}$ 

general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH<sub>2</sub> groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R<sup>15</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 24 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):

(III-1)	$R^{13}$ — $R^{14}$
(III-2)	$R^{13}$ —COO $\bigcirc$ - $R^{14}$
(111-3)	$R^{13}$ — $R^{14}$
(111-4)	$\mathbb{R}^{13}$
	<b>V R</b> <sup>14</sup>
(III-5)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(111-6)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-7)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(111-8)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-9)	R <sup>13</sup> ————————————————————————————————————
(III-10)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-11)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-12)	$R^{13}$ —COO $\langle \rangle$ - $R^{14}$
(III-13)	$R^{13}$ —OCO ${\bigcirc}$ $R^{14}$
(III-14)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-15)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
(III-16)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-17)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-18)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-19)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-20)	$R^{13}$ $R^{14}$
(III-21)	$R^{13}$ $\sim$
(III-22)	$R^{13} - \bigcirc - C = C - \bigcirc - R^{14}$

wherein  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more  $CH_2$  groups, which are present in said alkyl

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group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms.